12.03 hrs.

RE. DELEGATION OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT TO AYODHYA

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): Mr. speaker, Sir, I would like to know one thing from you for my knowledge. The House had decided that a delegation would visit Babri Masjid and Ram Janam Bhoomi complex....

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the members of a committee had gone there and it has appered in the newspapers of today that the committee would submit their report to the Minister of Home Affairs. Though some Members had got their own views and they were not even the part of the committee. One Member even said this ...*(Interruptions)*. My submission is that they would submit their report, a BJP delegation is also going today and it would also submit the facts, thus the Government may hold discussion over the matter but not before the report is submitted by both the delegations. We also have facts...*(Interruptions)*...Everyday Ram Janam Bhoomi issue is raised here in one way or the other. It is not proper that the discussion over this matter will be fruitful only when the report is submitted. We are also going there. We will also submit our report.

[*English*]

SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL(Erandol): There is a differnce between the two Delegations. The earlier Delegation went as a Parliamentary Delegation. Why are you equating the two? The two cannot be equated. This is a politically motivated Delegation. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Madan Lal Khurana, I have understood it now.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: When Shri Khurana raised the matter of propriety, I, showing due respect to him, sat down. But my submission is that I was also raising the same matter of propriety. when the delegation of this House went there...

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): It was not the delegation of the House.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: It is different that you boycotted it, but Parliamentary delegation had gone there.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: It was not the delegation of Parliament, but the delegation of the members of the Parliament.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I understand it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDER JEET YADAV: This is not proper, you kindly listen to me. Atalji is our senior colleague. A discussion took place in the House and it was decided that delegation of the entire House should go there. The same day Atalji had said that the delegation of the House may go, it is welcome, but he would not go as a part of it.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Mr. speaker, Sir, I remember that when it was proposed that the delegation of the House should be sent, you had asked not to involve yourself in it. You said that you were not included in it... It is the decision and invitation of the Government that all parties should go there, and that you were nowhere there. You had said that if at all you took the decision, you would do it after having consultations with all the parties. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:If you send the delegation, it would be with the approval and not only in consulation with all parties - I do remember your words correctly.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Agreeing to all your submission, I also submit that excluding the BJP, the members of all political parties who were interested in going there were in the delegation that had gone there. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not interrupt him, he will conclude within two minutes.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: I will conclude exactly within two minutes. We give your due respect and never interrupt. You may also kindly listen to me. National Intergration Council which includes BJP also had decided that a delegation should go there; thus delegation of NIC had also gone there, but BJP members were not part of it.I am not talking of the question of propriety. Just as Shri Khurana and several other Members have pointed out and it has also appered in the newspapers that the chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has stated that this delegation has flopped, this delegation was of no utility, and that he does not give any importance to it. Now I would like to talk of the matter of propriety. Such a statement by a Chief Minister is very improper. It is an allegation on the delegation of the members of this House, and sir, I would like the report prepared by that delegation be presented in the House so that the House may decide the matter in the light of that report. I think that the decision should be taken as early as possible because this matter has been giving rise to explosive situation. Therefore, I urge upon you to kindly direct the Government for it. It you are not willing to take this responsibility you may ask the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to put the report of this delegation before the House and keeping in view the explosive situation, the Government should not allow any construction or alteration to take place until this report is presented. *(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: It is absolutely not necessary. You dc not prolong it unnecessarily.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Mr. Speaker, Sir, delegation of National Integration Council was scheduled to go there, but neither the Chairman of the Council not the Home Minister not the Ex-Prime MInister went there. We should like to know as to why they did not go there as part of such an important delegation. In newspapers different causes....

MR. SPEAKER: If all of you behave like this, then I will have to give chance to them also.....

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not necessary. At a proper time we can discuss all these things and not now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK: But still they have raised the issue.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I was on that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Kindly do it. Do not wait. You may clarjfy that it was not a parliamentary delegation.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): If that satisfies my friend here My Lord...*(Interruptions)* I have been out of Parliament for the last two days because of Indisposition.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, let us not quibble about words whether it was the parliamentary delegation or a delegation of Members of Parliament. The question is what was the purpose for which that delegation had gone-to ascertain the truth and facts. We find that still serious attempts have been made, which had been our apprehension, to suppress the truth and conceal the real facts. It is very

unfortunate that the Chief Minister of a State should describe the visit of the parliamentary delegation.....

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Not the parliamentary delegation.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: or visit by a delegation of Members of parliament, with or without the BJP ...*(Interruptions)* It would have been the parliamentary delegation if BJP had participated.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: No, no.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Therefore, it seems that my esteemed friends on the BJP are only concerned about the parliamentary delegation and not about the delegations of the Members of Parliament. Therefore, if it was the parliamentary delegation, then truth should have been out, otherwise not. And the Chief Minister for whom I have the personal respect, I do not see any reason why he should go to the press and make such derogatory comments which only complicate matters.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): he did not.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: How does it help him or helped his cause I do not know. Even without waiting as to what will be the response of this delegation of Members of Parliament as to their experience and what they have seen there...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: He has said, "I expect the report to be fair and impartial." Obviously, words are being put in his mouth.(*Interruptions)*

The Pioneer has said that it was a flop. The Chief Minister has not said it.

[*Translation*]

When the Chief MInister has not made any such statement, then who will give the reply? He has merely stated that he expected that the report would be fair and objective.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Then we will find out. I am sure Advaniji has the second-hand information.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: It is the first-hand information. I heard Shri Chandra Jeet Yadav saying that got the first time. It is not fair to have that. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What is being said here is that the NIC delegation was not important enough because the ex-Prime Minister had not gone because so and so had not gone. After all, it was with the authority of the NIC that this delegation had gone. It was already decided. And those who had gone there were the members of the NIC. They are the members in the sub-committee. Three or more does not matter. The question is whether they represented or not. That is why, I would request my friends of the BJP that they should cooperate full. The suspicion has become more accentuated now because of the attitude that has been taken. Therefore, I do agree with Shri Chandra Jeet's suggestion that the Home Minister should immediately come and let to the House know what is the position. Let us have the report - I do not know, who is preparing the report- so that the people, the country and this House, at least should know what is the real position.

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this side also should be heard.

I am one of the Members, who was asked to go with the Delegation, yesterday. I am not telling anything about the Delegation. I did not go there on my own accord as a tourist. I was informed by the Home Minister of this country, on the basis of the decision of the Parliament that a Joint Delegation of Members from Parliament and NIC was going there. And we have been there.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will say what has happened on that day because I was also there in the House.

SHRI A. CHARLES: At 10 o'clock today, we met under the chairmanship of the Home Minister and something will come out. What

I mean to say is that a Delegation of Members of Parliament and NIC had gone there. It will be unfortunate if that Delegation is not given due responsibility and the status of a Parliamentary Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you quarrelling on something which can be decided? I know what is happening.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH:(Chittorgarh): I wish to share my concern on the issues that have been raised by the hon. Members of Parliament. You would accept that this was the most unusual step taken by a collectivity and through the Government. The Government started by saying and the Union Home Ministers is on record that he himself would lead it.

MR. SPEAKER: No.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, he is on record. I am coming to the point that I wish to make.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, these are the matters of record.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: This is a matter of record. He had stated "I will lead it myself" It was informed through the Press and by announcements that two delegations will go; one led by the Union Home Minister and the other led by the Union Minister of State. Then this was changed. It was a most unusual step.

MR. SPEAKER: At least, my memory says that that was not what he had said.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: This is a matter of record. And it was, nevertheless, a most unusual step taken to send a Delegation of Parliamentarians to look into what is happening in a state of the Union. It was a most unusual step taken and having taken that step, I appeal to my good friend, Shri Somnath, if he uses this Assembly now on the basis of newspaper reports be pillorying a Chief Minister of a State and to call what he said is highly objectionable- not to take objection merely because it has been stated in the report. There is no authorisation of the Parliament to bring into the disscussions of this assembly, the conduct of any Chief Minister of the States of the Union and yet we are doing that. That is the second most unusual step and the second most unusual procedure. Thirdly, we are now asking that this visit of NIC Delegation whether they may be three or five or even one, it does not matter and I am not dwelling on that - that instead of submitting its report to the NIC,- it is very good and I am very glad that the Leader of the Janata Dal or the Janata Party, I do not know what it is now called, that he led this Delegation. I was informed that even he was reluctant to take on this mantle- was asked to send his report to the Parliament. I am ready for that. If the hon. Member has suggested that that report be submitted to the Parliament,, let it be submitted.

MR. SPEAKER:But who have said that that report should be submitted to the Parliament?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The hon. Members have said. Let the report be submitted and let the third most unusuall step be taken. Two most unusual precedents have been set. Therefore if the report is now being sought....(*Interruptions)*

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH(Sheohar): We have never referred to the President of the BJP or the President of any other party. I am sorry that I never expected this thing from the hon- Member.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I do not know he is taking objection to; but whatever he he is taking the objection to..

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): He is equating ...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: That will not from part of the record.

(*Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR(Barh): But why did you say whether it is Janta Dal or Janata Party. when you do not know even the name

*Not recorded

of the party, why did you say like this.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Mr. Speaker, Sir, sometimes one gets confused. (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Then why are you speaking Janata Dal or Janata Party.

(*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I beg your pardon. That was not my intention. (*Interruptions*). A most unusual third step is now being recommended that the report of the NIC and the Parliamentarians should be submittied to the Parliament. I appeal to you. Let the report come here and let the Parliament take this most unusual step. Let it take the fourth most unusual, step of discussing that report. I appeal to you. Let that report be presented to the Parliament - not within two or three days, time. I appeal to all those who went to Ayodhya to give their report because they have already made up their minds. So, let them give their report before today is out. I appeal to you to have this discussion before tomarrow is out. Let this matter be finally resolved. sir, this is not the way in which the Parliament is to be used. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not necessary for you also to speak so much on this point.*(Interruptions)* It is not necessary. why is it necessary? *(Interruptions)* Why is it necessary for everybody to speak on this? *(Interruptions)* No. Please take your seat. *(interruptions)* What has been said on the floor of the House and what I have understood is that eveybody is ready for discussion. That is one point.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT(Ponnani): There is a point in that.

MR. SPEAKER: Why is it necessary? When discussion takes place, you can speak.

SHRI EBRAHIM SULIAMAN SAIT: Sir, the leader of the delegation has asked for certain documents from the UP Government and the UPGovernment has promised to give them. Let us wait for those documents before giving the report. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Or one point, there is no difference of opinion that there should be a discussion on this issue in thee House and as soon as it is possible for us to do.

The second point is that certain Members of this House had gone there. It was said on the floor of the House that the NIC is sending a delegation and if the Members of this House want to go with them, they would have no objection. So, the NIC delegation with the Members of Parliament did go to Ayodhya; they have seen the situation over there, they must have formed their own opinion and views; and they must have collected the information. The natural corollary is that they would speak to the Home Minister on their visit. Probably, they would give a report to the Home Minister on their visit.

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT: I have already spoken to him.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. You have already spoken to the Home Minister on this point. (*Interruptions*) It is not necessary. I think we would have a discussion on this. I would fix the time for the discussion, after consulting all- concerned. Then, in a proper manner, let us have a discussion. Let us not raise it every day. Once we discuss it, it should be over *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): Sir, am I able to draw your attention?*(Interruptions)*